

American Government & Politics: A Christian Worldview. Short Film:
“Second Amendment – To Prevent ‘the Greatest Danger to Liberty’” (12–15 Minutes)

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS

Goal

In this interesting film (12:20), the Tenth Amendment Center reviews why America’s liberty-loving “founding fathers” and citizens opposed standing armies.

NOTE: This film can be easily understood played at 1.25 speed, and you may stop the film at 10:40, since the rest is an appeal for financial support.

Instructions

1. Play the short film above here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qXmEXpfg2MQ>.
2. Discuss as a class by asking for volunteers for their thoughts.

Film Notes

- Nearly all founders opposed and spoke out against standing armies (SA).
- George Mason (paraphrased): “I hate SA, because they have throughout history disarmed state militias (armed citizens).”
- James Madison: “The most effectual way to guard against a standing army is to render it unnecessary [i.e., with armed citizens/militias].”
- Militias fight against government overreach, because, as the speaker notes, “Once you empower a government to protect you, you’re also empowering government to control you.” ***This is a key point; make sure students understand this!***
- Many Second Amendment supporters for some reason support big standing armies, although this is a contradictory stand to take.